Belizian Potato Salad

(Belize)

Serves 6

[Place the following ingredients in a large saucepan:]
2 cups potatoes, peeled and diced
1 cup carrots, diced
1 cup peas

[Add water to cover the tops of the vegetables and 1 teaspoon salt. Bring to a boil and simmer until potatoes and carrots are soft.]

[Place in large bowl and let cool.]

Combine with [the following ingredients:
1 cup cabbage, thinly sliced
1 cup onion, diced
1 cup mayonnaise (or slightly less)
salt and pepper to taste

Chill several hours and serve on bed of lettuce garnished with parsley

Microwave:
Cook potatoes and 1/4 cup water on high, tightly covered, 7-10 minutes; let stand, covered, 3 minutes. Cook carrots and 2 tablespoons water on high, tightly covered, 2-4 minutes; let stand 3 minutes. Cook peas and 2 tablespoons water on high 2-3 minutes, stirring once.

Reflections on Hospitality

"Before you finish eating breakfast this morning, you've depended on more than half the world. This is the way our universe is structured… We aren't going to have peace on earth until we recognize this basic fact of the interrelated structure of reality."
Martin Luther King Jr.

Recipe from *Extending the Table,* by Joetta Handirch Schlabach, Herald Press, Scottdale, PA 15683.
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[Belize is an independent country in Central America. It borders Mexico and Guatemala.]

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Gather in the Garden Table Blessing

[Printed in two panels so that sheet can be cut into smaller cards]

FOLD

Lord Jesus Christ,
we are about to be nourished
by the gifts of food and drink
that, by God's goodness,
we have received.
With gratitude we pray
that you will bless these gifts,
all the treasures of our lives,
and all who gather here.
Amen.

FOLD

Lord Jesus Christ,
we are about to be nourished
by the gifts of food and drink
that, by God's goodness,
we have received.
With gratitude we pray
that you will bless these gifts,
all the treasures of our lives,
and all who gather here.
Amen.

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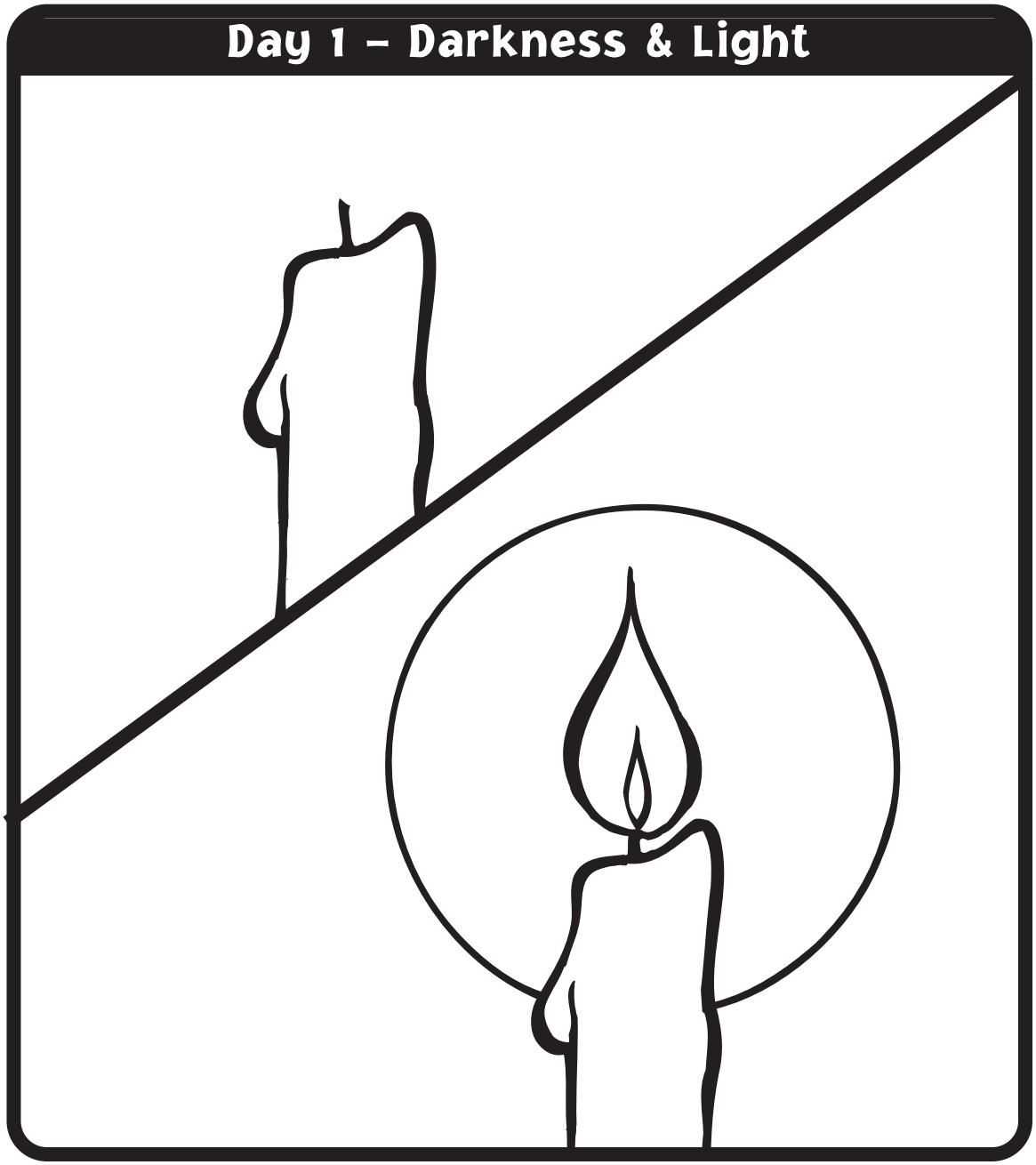
Creation Symbols



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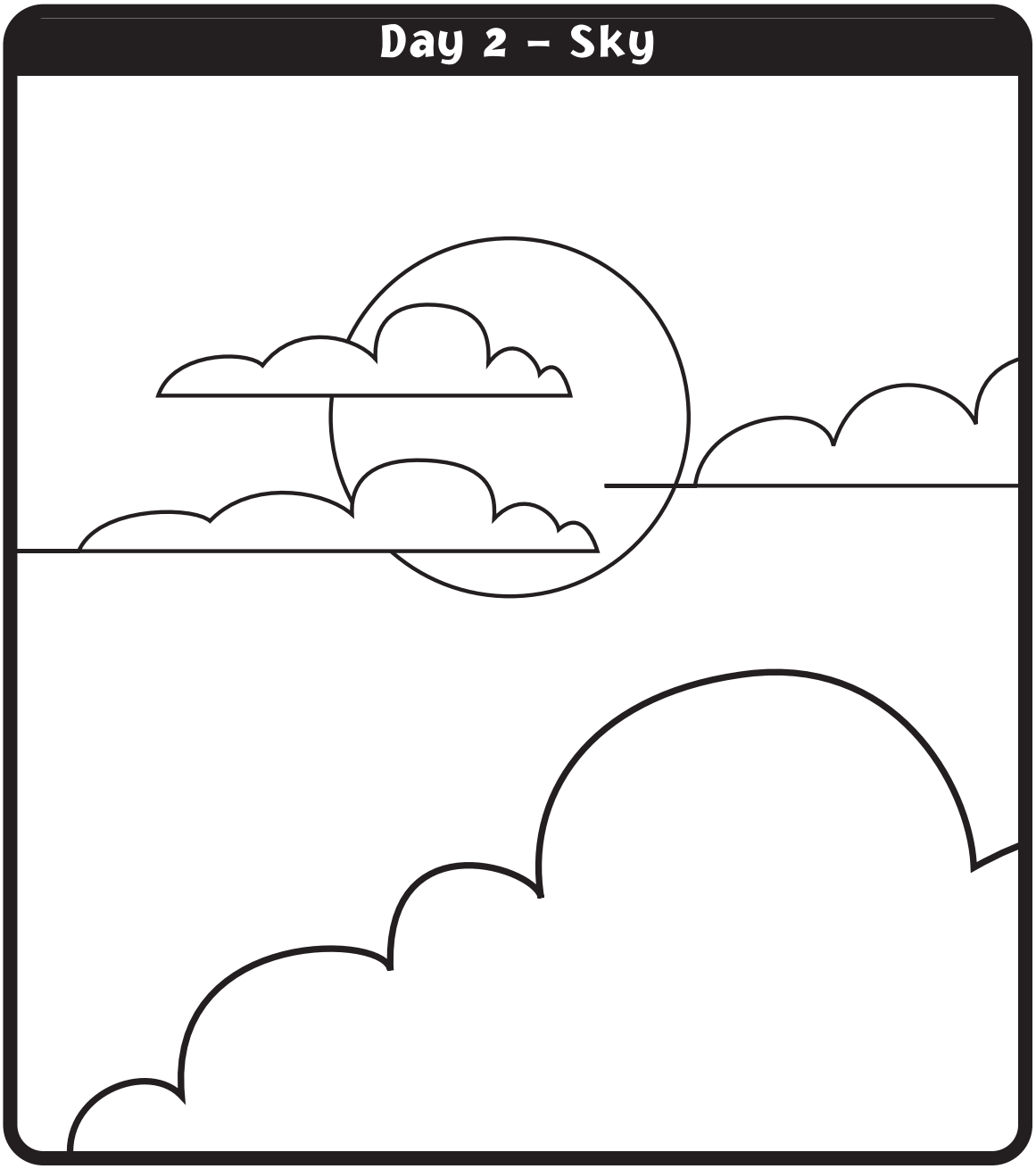
Creation Symbols

Day 2 – Sky



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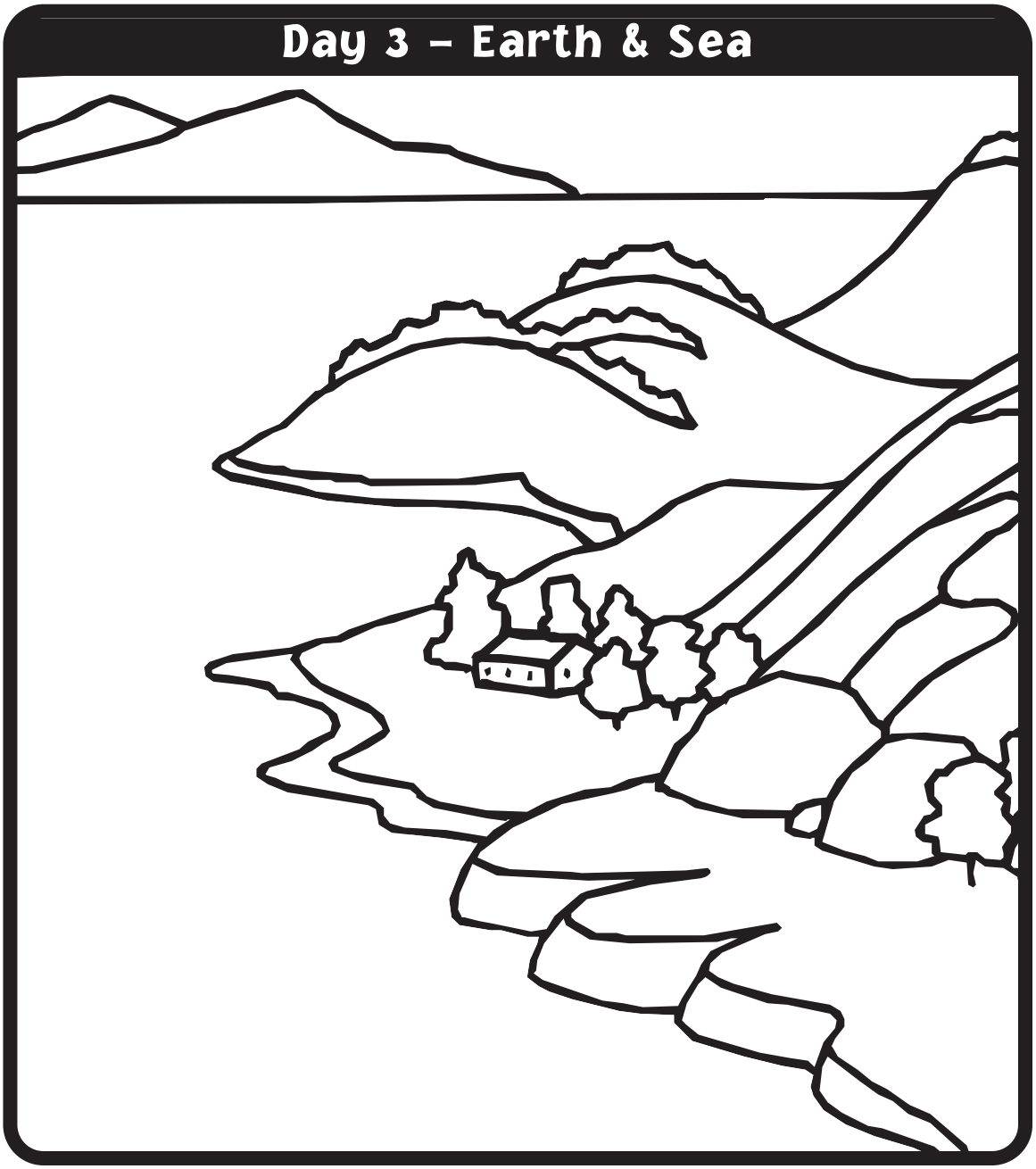
Creation Symbols

Day 3 – Earth & Sea



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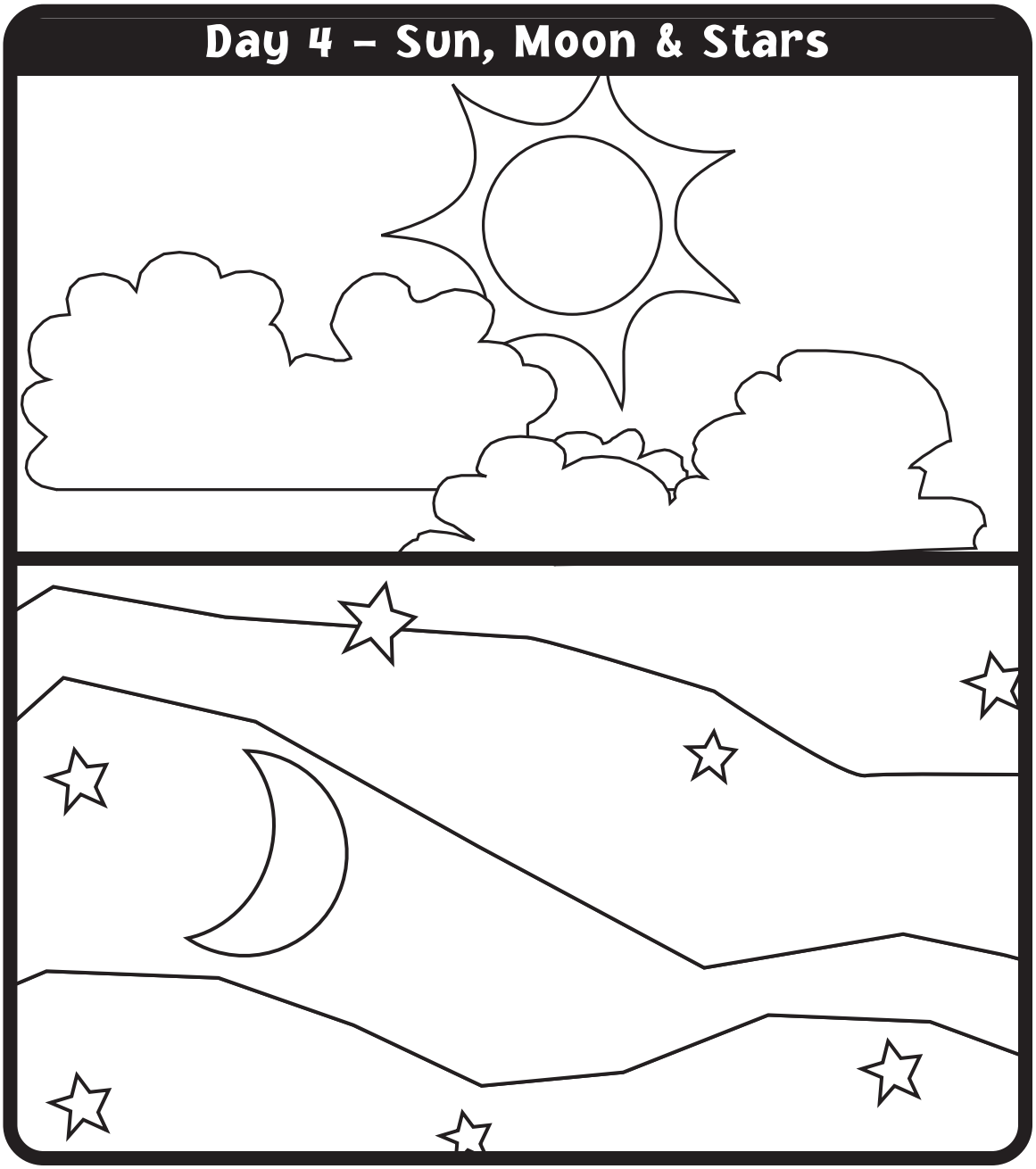

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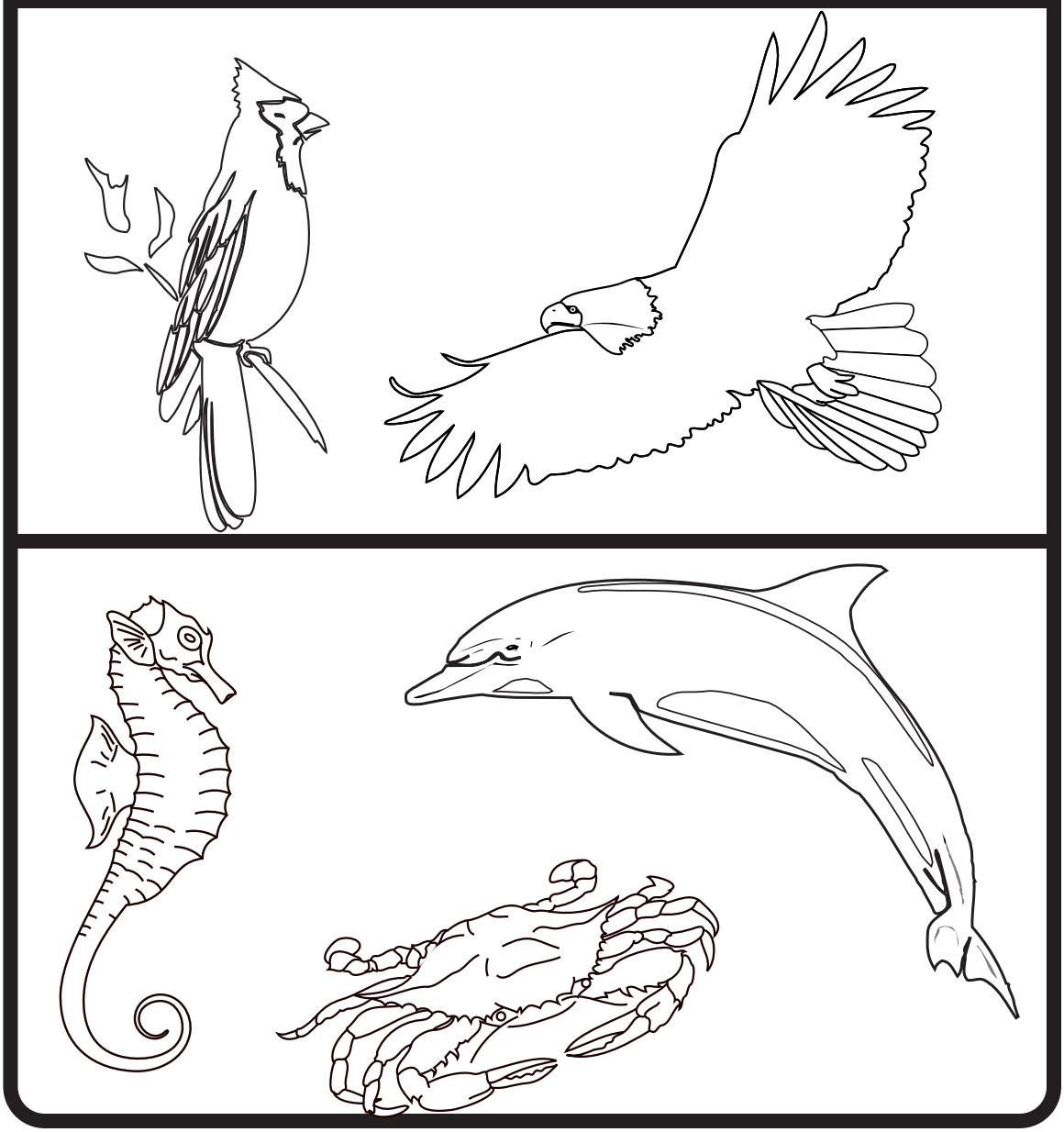
Creation Symbols

Day 5 – Creatures of the Sea & Birds of the Sky



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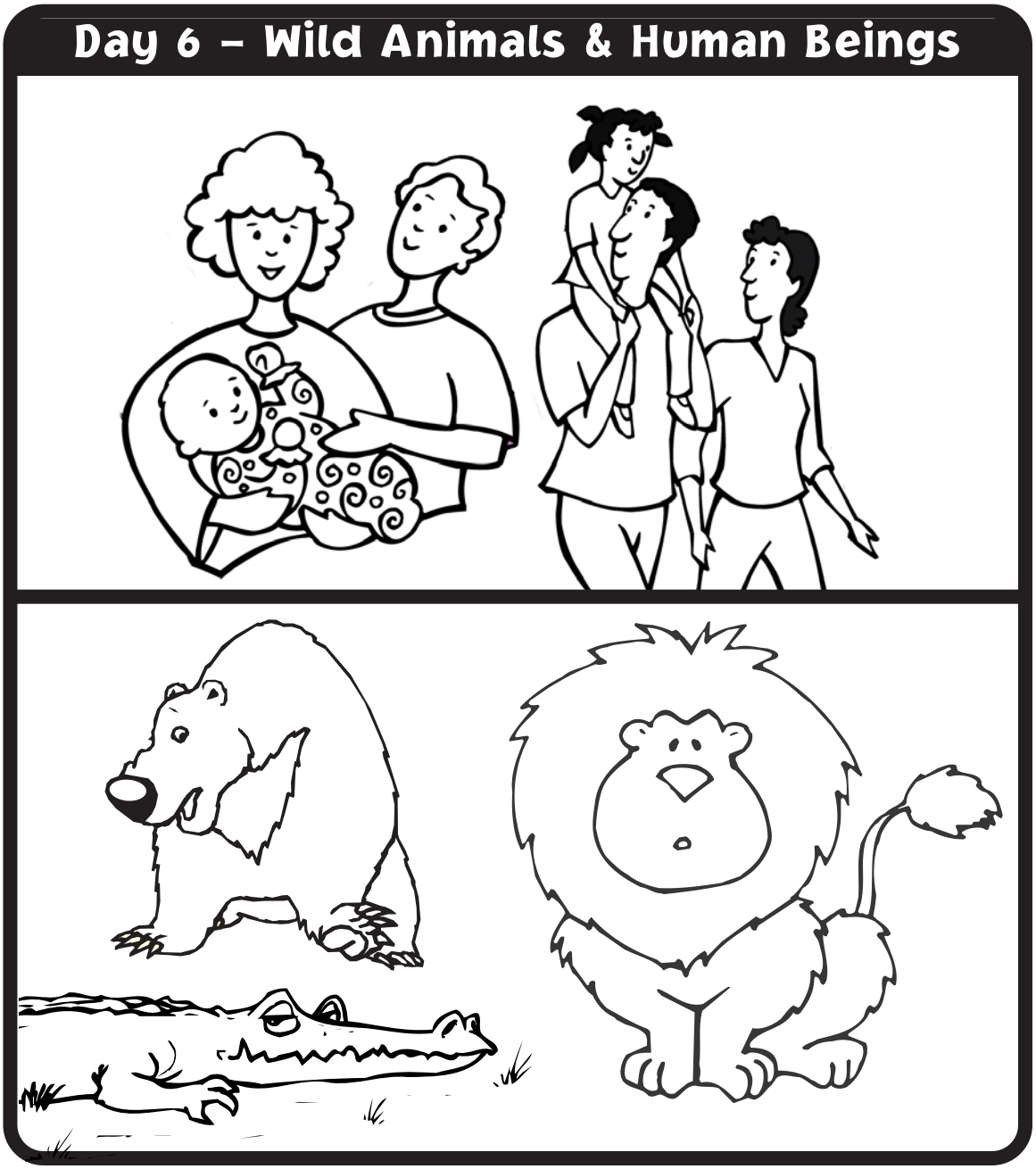

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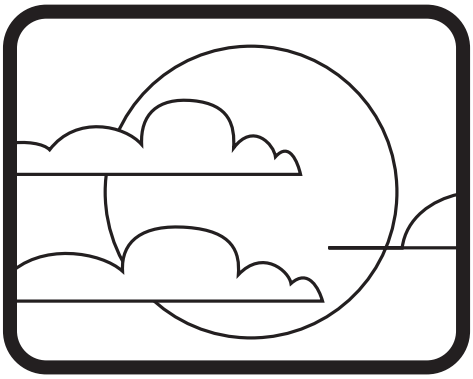
Creation Symbols

FOLD

FOLD

Day 1
Darkness & Light

Day 2
Sky



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Creation Symbols

FOLD

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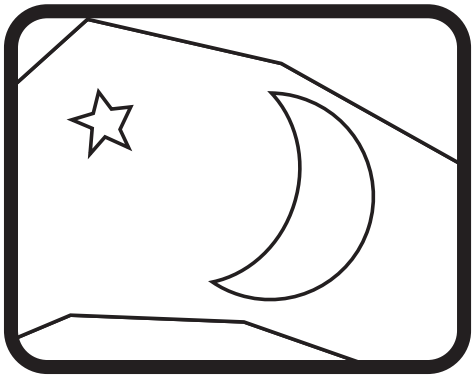
Day 3
Earth & Sea

Day 4
Sun, Moon & Stars



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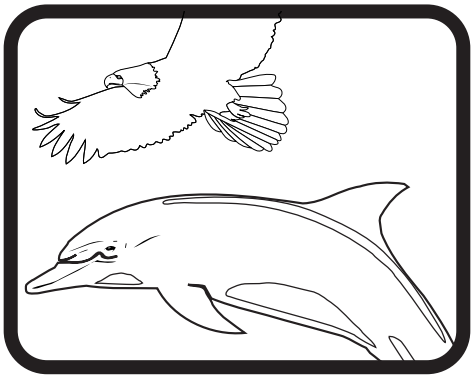
Creation Symbols

FOLD

FOLD

Day 5
Creatures of the Sea & Birds of the Sky



Day 6
Wild Animals & Human Beings

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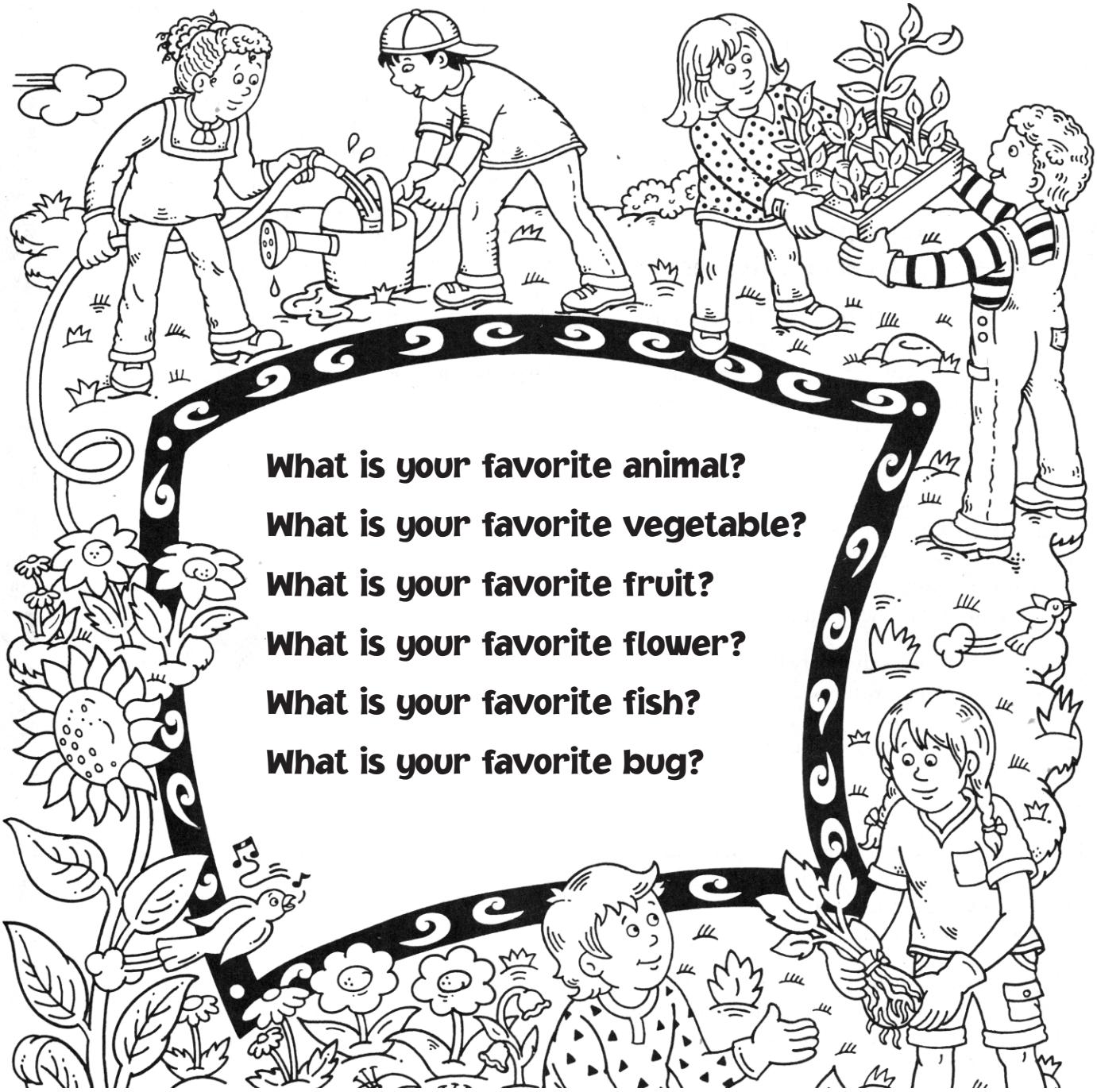
Thinking About an Ideal Garden

Look at the fun being shared in the garden border of this page, and think about your favorite things in God's creation. Let each household member share his or her responses to the following questions.


What is your favorite animal?
What is your favorite vegetable?
What is your favorite fruit?
What is your favorite flower?
What is your favorite fish?
What is your favorite bug?

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In Praise of God's Creation

(Stand)

SONG: **"I Know You Are God"**
(We Believe, Grade 6, CD, #3)

In the morning's first sunlight I know you are God.
In the gentle and starry night I know you are God.
I see in your majesty all that you are to me
in each and ev'ry thing, I know you are God.

In your loving forgiveness I know you are God.
In your kindness, compassion I know you are God.
My trust rests in you alone, source of all peace and hope;
bless the Lord, O my soul, I know you are God.

In the peaceful green pastures I know you are God.
Beside the still waters I know you are God.
With your staff and your rod comfort me, gentle God.
Shepherd of Love for all, I know you are God.

LEADER: *We begin, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

ALL: *Amen.*

LEADER: *Let us together praise the Lord,*
from whom we have rain from the heavens
and abundance from the earth.
Blessed be God now and forever.
(Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers).

LEADER: *We are all very thankful for the good things*
of the earth, sea, and sky that God has given us to enjoy.
Each table has a different sign of God's creation.
All of these great gifts are from God who
created our wonderful world.

(continued)

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In Praise of God's Creation

Sharing of Ideal Gardens and Prayer

DAY 1: *Glory to you, God,*
for all you have made:

DAY 2: *for light in the darkness,*
for sun, moon, and sky,

DAY 3: *for water and land,*
for great flowing seas—

DAY 4: *For the resources of the earth,*
for the fruits of the land,

DAY 5: *for all plants and flowers,*
for all creatures and critters,

DAY 6: *for every being on earth,*
for everything that exists—

ALL: *We praise you and thank you,*
and we ask you to bless us
with the peace of your creation
and the warmth of your love.

LEADER: *May your blessing be with us*
as we gather in your name
to celebrate your goodness
and our faith in you proclaim;

ALL: *in the name of the Father,*
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

SONG: **"I Know You Are God"**

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The Story of Creation

Day 1 – Darkness and Light

READER: "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

"Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night'.

ALL: Thus evening came, and morning followed – the first day."

Genesis 1:1-5

As you prepare to act out your group's day of creation, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Go over the reading from Genesis. One person should read the passage while the rest of the group acts it out.
- Everyone should say the last line of the reading together at the end of your part of the story.
- Decide on how you want to act out this day of creation. Use your imagination and make sure everyone has something to do.
- Use whatever "props" you make or find in helping to bring your day of creation to life.
- Talk to the *Gather In My Name* leader if you have any questions.

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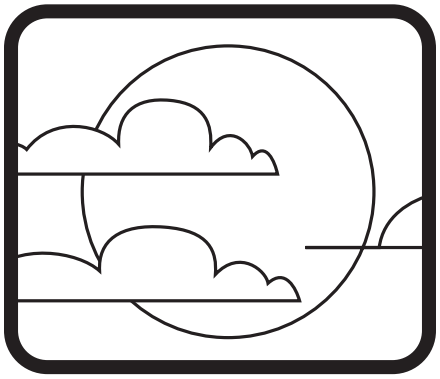
The Story of Creation

Day 2 – Sky



READER: "Then God said, 'Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other.' And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome 'the sky.'

ALL: "Evening came, and morning followed – the second day."

Genesis 1:6-8

As you prepare to act out your group's day of creation, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Go over the reading from Genesis. One person should read the passage while the rest of the group acts it out.
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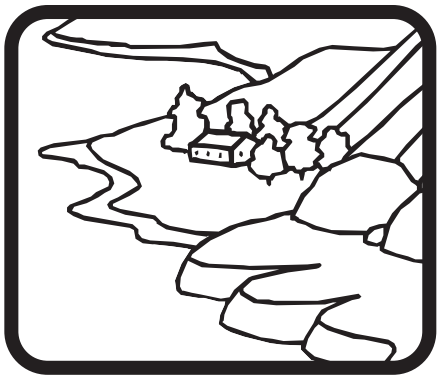
The Story of Creation

Day 3 – Earth and Sea



READER: "Then God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear.' And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land 'the earth,' and the basin of the water he called 'the sea.' God saw how good it was. Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it.' And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was.

ALL: "Evening came, and morning followed – the third day."

Genesis 1:9-13

As you prepare to act out your group's day of creation, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Go over the reading from Genesis. One person should read the passage while the rest of the group acts it out.
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- Decide on how you want to act out this day of creation. Use your imagination and make sure everyone has something to do.
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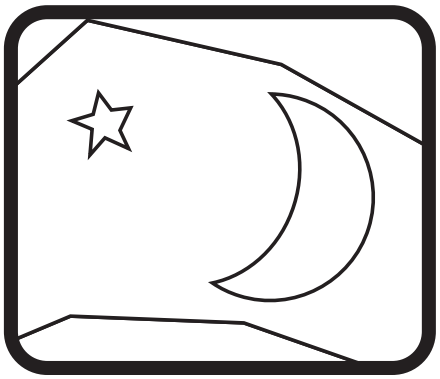
The Story of Creation

Day 4 – Sun, Moon, and Stars



READER: "Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.' And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was.

ALL: "Evening came, and morning followed – the fourth day."

Genesis 1:14-19

As you prepare to act out your group's day of creation, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Go over the reading from Genesis. One person should read the passage while the rest of the group acts it out.
- Everyone should say the last line of the reading together at the end of your part of the story.
- Decide on how you want to act out this day of creation. Use your imagination and make sure everyone has something to do.
- Use whatever "props" you make or find in helping to bring your day of creation to life.
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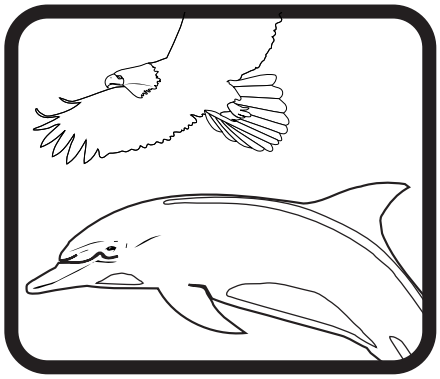
The Story of Creation

Day 5 – Creatures of the Sea and Birds of the Sky



READER: "Then God said, 'Let the waters teem with an abundance of living creatures and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.' And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teemed and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them….

ALL: "Evening came, and morning followed – the fifth day."

Genesis 1:20-22a; 23

As you prepare to act out your group's day of creation, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Go over the reading from Genesis. One person should read the passage while the rest of the group acts it out.
- Everyone should say the last line of the reading together at the end of your part of the story.
- Decide on how you want to act out this day of creation. Use your imagination and make sure everyone has something to do.
- Use whatever "props" you make or find in helping to bring your day of creation to life.
- Talk to the *Gather In My Name* leader if you have any questions.

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The Story of Creation

Day 6 – Wild Animals and Human Beings

READER: "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.' And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.'

God created man in his image;
in the divine image he created him;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them….
And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made and he found it very good.

ALL: "Evening came, and morning followed – the sixth day."

Genesis 1:24-28; 30b-31

As you prepare to act out your group's day of creation, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Go over the reading from Genesis. One person should read the passage while the rest of the group acts it out.
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- Decide on how you want to act out this day of creation. Use your imagination and make sure everyone has something to do.
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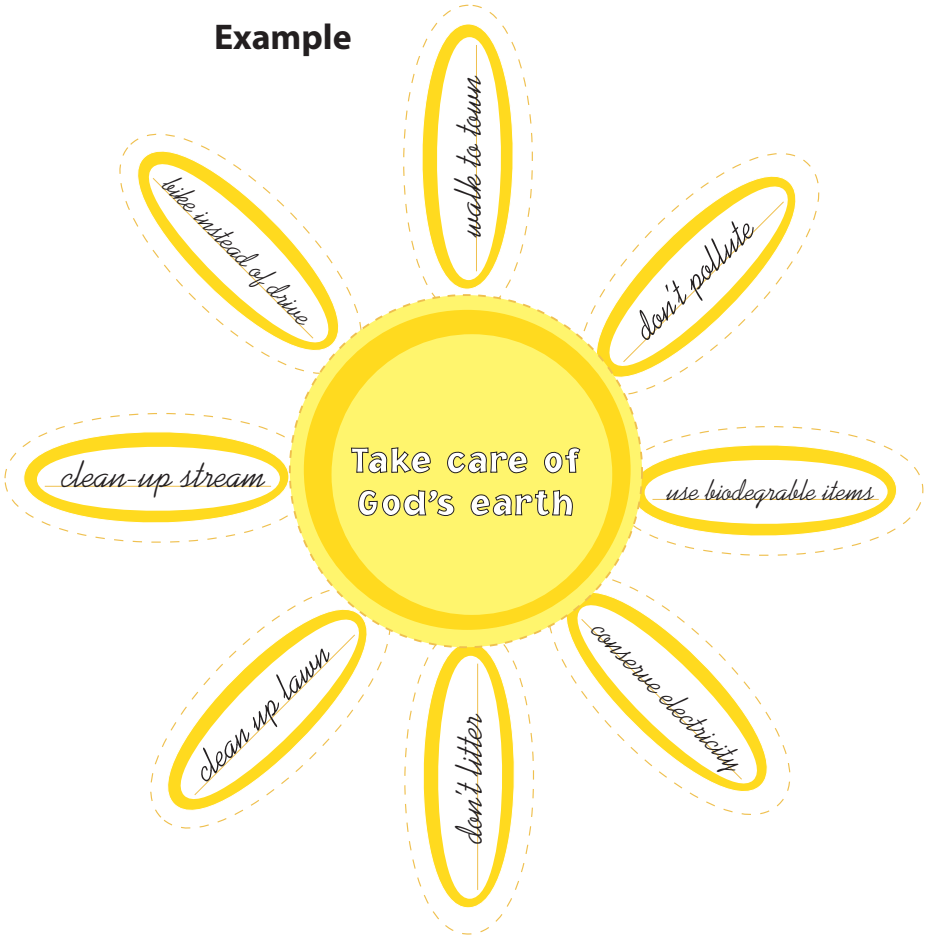
Caring for God's Creation

How can your household care for the gifts of creation?
On three different petals, write about the ways you can:

- Take care of God's earth.
- Take care of God's animals.
- Take care of yourselves and others.

Decorate the petals, if desired. Sign your names to the petals and cut them out.

When you finish, take each petal and add it to the flowers on the wall.
Match your petal to the right flower by looking at the flower's center.



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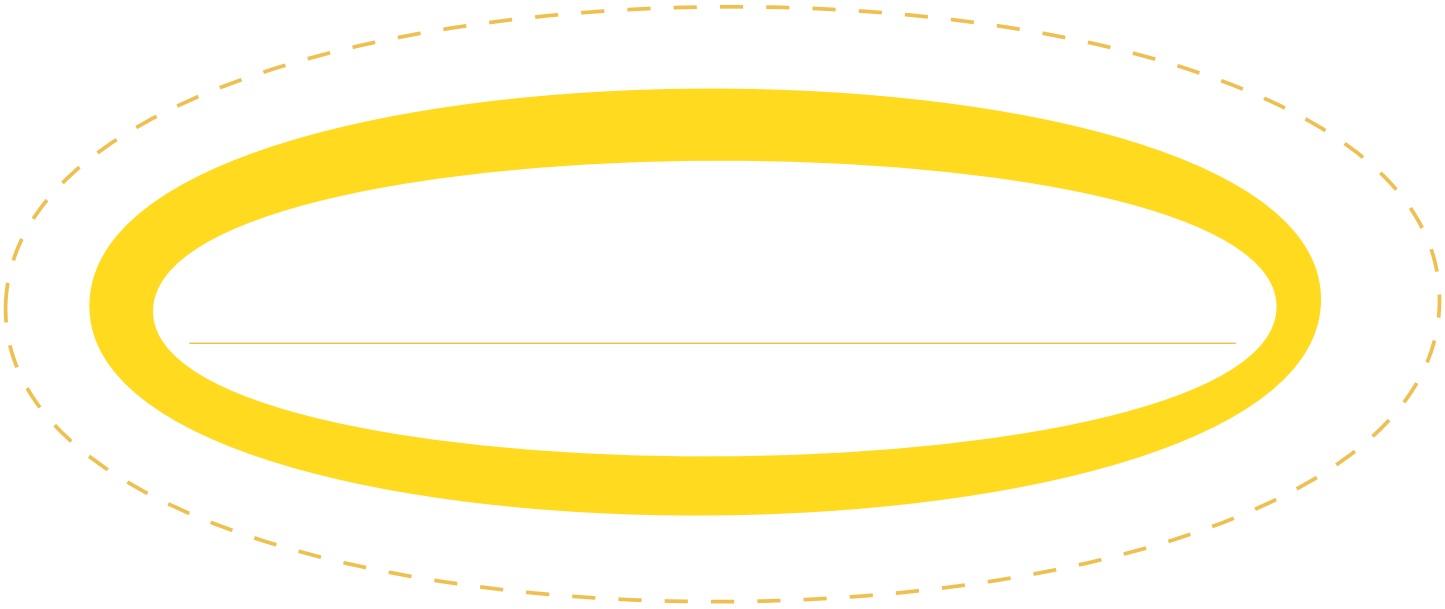
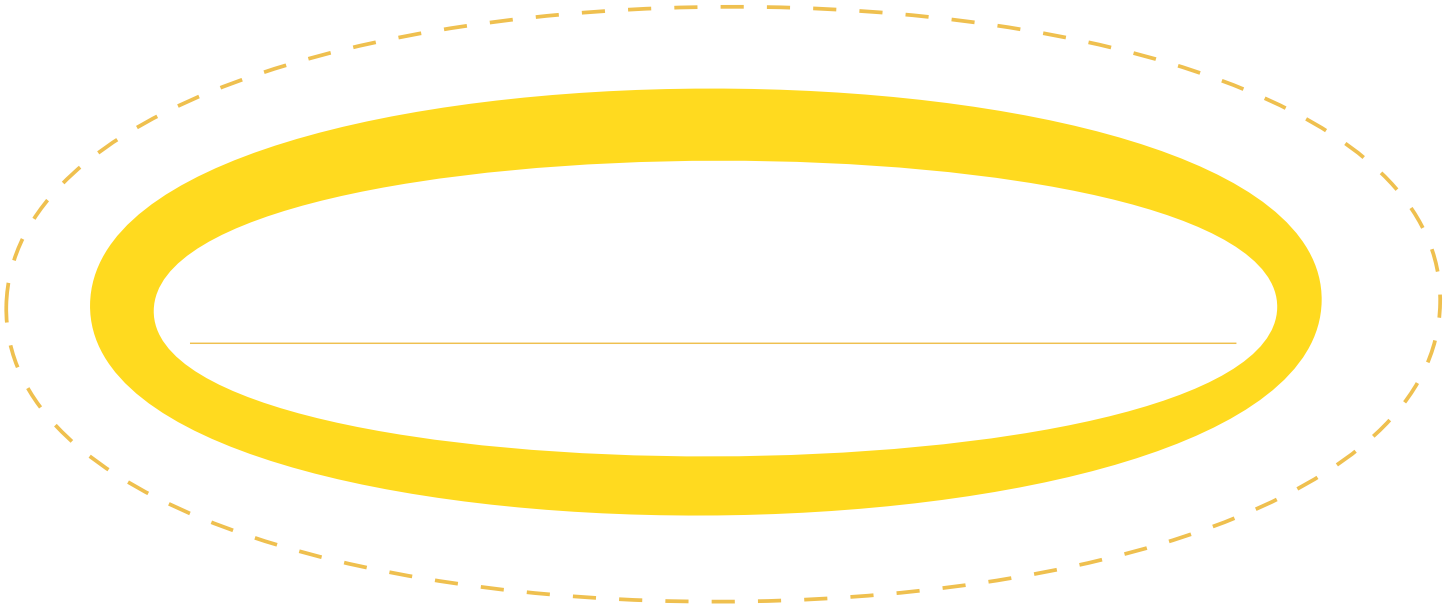
Caring for God's Creation





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Caring for God's Creation

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Evaluation

Thank you for attending ***Gather in My Name.***
Please take a moment to share your thoughts with members of the planning team. If participating with other members of your household, you might want to fill in your answers together.

One thing I/we learned about God through acting out the story of creation is _____

_____

_____

I/we would like to know more about _____

_____

_____

A question I/we have about the Bible is _____

_____

_____

One way I/we will care for the gifts of God's creation is _____

_____

_____

Something I/we would like our parish to offer in future gatherings is

_____

_____

Additional comments _____

_____

_____

Return this form to your planning team.

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Gather in My Name

I learned about God's creation.

My family learned about God's creation.
Here we are at our parish.

I will care for God's creation.

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Gather in the Garden

Praying in the Garden

In the gospel of Mark, there is a wonderful passage in which Jesus recognizes the weariness of his disciples. He issues an invitation that is both considerate and enticing: "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile" (Mark 6:30). Who of us would not welcome such an invitation, especially after a hard day's work?

A garden epitomizes the kind of quiet place to which Jesus calls us. There, surrounded by the sights, smells, and sounds of nature, we can find rest and renewal. Jesus often took time to withdraw to places of solitude in order to spend time in prayer. He expected us to do the same, knowing that prayer provides a wellspring of life and grace, one that replenishes our drooping spirits.

Even if we do not have a garden of our own, there are many places to which we can withdraw for prayer. Strolling in a neighborhood park, visiting a local arboretum, taking a trip to the zoo, or sitting by a pond are all experiences that contain ample evidence of God's creativity and beauty. We can create interior gardens as well by simply lighting a candle, arranging a vase of flowers, or watching a goldfish swim around its bowl. Each is a peace-inducing exercise that quiets the internal voices and draws us into the silent spaces that are conducive to prayer.

By yourself, or with other members of your household, list possible "quiet places" where you can withdraw to pray. Schedule time within the next week to visit one of these places in order to make prayer a more intentional part of your life.

Saint Francis of Assisi, Steward of God's Creation

Saint Francis was the son of a rich merchant. In his twenties, Francis felt God calling him to a different way of life. Francis gave up his wealth and began to live a simple, poor life. He fasted, prayed, and helped the poor. In 1210 Francis began a religious community now known as the Franciscans.

Francis is known for his great love of God's creation. We celebrate his feast day on October 4th. On this day, many parishes offer a special blessing for pets and other animals.

(Adapted from *We Believe,* Grade 3, Student Edition)

A Prayer for Animals

Hear our humble prayer, O God,
for our friends the animals, your creatures.

For those who deal with them
we ask a heart of compassion,
gentle hands and kindly words.
Make us all true friends to animals
and worthy followers of our merciful Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers.

Everyday Ways to Help the Environment

1. Use old clothes and cloth for cleaning instead of paper towels.
2. Lower thermostat one degree for every hour you will be away or asleep.
3. Return reusable items to merchants (e.g., plastic and rubber pots to nursery; hangers to dry cleaners).
4. Replace incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient bulbs.

Renewing the Face of the Earth: A Resource for Parishes.

Quiet Gardens

Recognizing the need for each person to have somewhere beautiful to go for prayer and reflection, Reverend Philip Roderick established the Quiet Garden Trust. His idea has spawned a worldwide network of "quiet gardens" that include private homes, retreat centers, and organic farms. Each is open to those seeking a place to contemplate the beauty and goodness of God's creation. For information on this project visit www.quietgarden.co.uk.

A Time-line of Creation

The following time-line is meant to help us see how vast and mysterious is God's creation and to understand better our place as humans within creation…

- 15 billion years ago – God created the universe.
- 5 billion years ago – The Earth and its solar system emerged.
- 3 and 1/2 billion years ago – Life emerged in simple bacteria.
- 800 million years ago – Multi-cellular life emerged.
- 520 million years ago – The first fish emerged.
- 420 million years ago – The first land plants appeared.
- 360 million years ago – The first insects came to be.
- 220 million years ago – The first mammals emerged.
- 180 million years ago – The first birds took flight.
- 130 million years ago – The first flowering plants appeared.
- 80 million years ago – Dinosaurs became extinct.
- 100,000 years ago – Homo Sapiens emerged in Africa.
- 10,000 years ago – The last ice age occurred; agriculture began.
- 2,000 years ago – Jesus of Nazareth was born!
- 200 years ago – The Industrial Revolution began.
- 57 years ago – The atom was split.
- 35 years ago – The first human stepped on the moon.

Renewing the Face of the Earth: A Resource for Parishes.

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The Prayer of Guerric of Igny

[Printed in two panels so that sheet can be cut into smaller cards]

FOLD

O Lord Jesus,
true gardener,
work in us what you want of us,
for without you we can do nothing.
For you are indeed the true gardener,
at once the maker and tiller and keeper of your garden,
you plant with the word,
water with the spirit
and give your increase with your power.

Guerric of Igny

FOLD

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Guerric of Igny

[Guerric of Igny was born in Belgium. He was one of the first monks of the Cistercian Order, founded in 1098.]

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